(a) whether complaints have been received from consumers regarding non-availability of wheat at reasonable rates;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make wheat available to farmers and consumers at reasonable rates; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to redress the complaints of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). Central Government allocates adequate quantities of wheat to States/Union Territories for distribution through Public Distribution System at a uniform rate (Central issue price) throughout the country. The States/U.Ts. add a certain margin on this and, therefore, the end retail price of wheat in P.D.S. would differ from State to State. The existing central issue price for wheat is Rs. 234/- per quintal and carries a substantial subsidy so that P.D.S. consumers can get wheat at a reasonable rate. States make available the allotted quantities of wheat to all beneficiaries of PDS, including farmers and consumers.

Declaration of Chhetichand as Public Holiday

4846. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to declare 'Chhetichand' (Sindhi Day) as public holiday;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). Chhetichand is one of the 12 occasions for the purpose of selecting 3 optional holidays every year for Central Government administrative officers. Central Government operative offices as also industrial, commercial & trading establishments have the option to include Chhetichand as one of the holidays, every year, within the permitted number.

Allocation of Funds under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana

4847. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether special provisions have been made to provide more grants for hill and desert areas under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana;

(b) whether National Agriculture Commission has admitted that 11 districts of Rajasthan including Jalaur, Sikar, and Ganganagar fall under Thar desert area;

(c) whether the Union Government have recognized the said three districts for special grant under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana;

(d) if so, the time by which financial assistance will be provided; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Government of India have agreed to the State Government's suggestions given in 1990-91 to make the allocations to the districts in Rajasthan according to the prescribed criteria; implying that no distinction should be made between desert and other districts.